JFK assassination movie is full of lies, Frederick man attests

By JULIA ROBB
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A Frederick resident who started a national controversy about director Oliver Stone's new movie appeared on "CBS Evening News with Dan Rather" Friday night.

Harold Weisberg told CBS reporter Mark Phillips that Mr. Stone's movie, "JFK," lies about events surrounding President John Kennedy's murder.

In an earlier interview, Mr. Weisberg said he started a media avalanche about the movie last April when he gave a copy of the movie script to *Washington Post* reporter George Lardner, accompanied with Mr. Weisberg's comments and research on the 1963 assassination.

Mr. Weisberg has written six books about the murder, and the manner in which the government responded to the crisis.

He did not immediately go to the media, Mr. Weisberg said. After a Hollywood friend sent him the script and he found it was "a real stinker," he wrote Oliver Stone expressing his misgivings. Only when Mr. Stone failed to answer did he call Mr.

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JFK

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Lardner.

"What Oliver Stone has done is exploit and commercialize this great tragedy," Mr. Weisberg said. "I know he cannot have believed all the things he is telling the media.

"He said all the government records are suppressed till 2039, and he knows that I have a quarter of a million pages of government documents and I make them available to every writer."

After the *Post* story, the movie was critically discussed in, among other publications, *The Chicago Tribune*, Time and Esquire. Mr. Weisberg was quoted in several articles.

"It got to the point that Warners (the movie company which has invested millions in "JFK") hired the most expensive lobbyist in Washington, Hill and Knowlton, to try and persuade the bureau chiefs it is not a story," Mr. Weisberg said.

Mr. Weisberg has delivered the same message to everyone, he said. Oliver Stone admits that "JFK" is based on a 1988 book by former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, he said, and that book is "crazy, I'm talking about lunacy. It was weird."

"My objection to the Oliver Stone movie," said Mr. Weisberg, "was that he said he was going to film the history for (Americans), and tell them who killed the president, and how, and why.

"And he could not possibly do that from the Garrison book or the collection of all the nutty conspiracy theories" which Mr. Stone is using in the movie.

Mr. Weisberg said he knows he is right because he was involved in events discussed in "The Trail Of the Assassins: My Investigation and Prosecution of the Murder of President Kennedy," Mr. Garrison's book.

In 1968, Mr. Garrison's staff asked Mr. Weisberg to investigate Mr. Garrison's theories, Mr. Weisberg said.

Mr. Weisberg said he found that a staff member was making up stories to tell Mr. Garrison and Mr. Garrison was busy making up his own.

Mr. Garrison planned to mark the assassination's fifth anniversary by naming an alleged assassin. But the man had been dead since 1962, Mr. Weisberg said.

Mr. Garrison did eventually prosecute a man for conspiring to murder President Kennedy, he said, but the prosecution, according to Mr. Weisberg was "a fraud and it wound up in a fiasco and the innocent man he charged was acquitted in an hour.

"Then he wrote it into a conspiracy against himself and he put it into a book and that is what the movie is based on," Mr. Weisberg said.

"I have no doubt that the president was killed as the end result of a conspiracy. But we have no way of knowing who conspired because the government never investigated the crime itself, and never intended to."